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RETAIN OR DESTROY

1. At a meeting held on [REDACTED] in Tsingtao, a group of Tsingtao officials and professional people gathered to discuss ways and means of maintaining Tsingtao as an open city amenable to both the Nationalists and the Communists and to delay Communist occupation as long as possible.

2. The general agreement was that Tsingtao should become virtually severed from the Central Government and become a practically separate political entity from the rest of China; that the port should be made a free port; that there should be free exchange; and that under no circumstances should the U. S. Navy enter the picture.

3. Among those present at the meeting were the following:

IAN Pao-te, director of the Kiaochou Railroad, the host;

FU Li-ping, advisor to General CHIN Te-chun, newly-appointed Shantung governor and local mayor;

YIN Chun-t'ai, chairman of the local Kuomintang Party;

CHAO Tai-mou, president of Shantung University,

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